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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 83rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 19 March 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

- Earthquake in Turkey

- Financing of the United Nations Protection Force: Report of the Fifth Committee [149]

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Before turning to the item on our agenda for this morning, may I, on behalf of all the members of the Assembly, extend our deepest sympathy to the Government and the people of Turkey on the tragic loss of life and extensive material damage which have resulted from the recent earthquake.

May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity, and respond promptly and generously to any request for help.

I now call on the representative of Turkey.

Mr. KOCATURK (Turkey): My delegation is profoundly touched, Mr. President, by your expression of sympathy with respect to the earthquake disaster that has caused heavy loss of life in Turkey. Rescue operations are continuing in difficult weather conditions. We have been receiving generous assistance from States, from the United Nations and from various other international organizations. Your words today on behalf of Member States and the international assistance with which Turkey is being provided are expressions of solidarity which my delegation values highly.

Please accept our deepest appreciation.

AGENDA ITEM 149

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/46/894)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Mahmoud Barimani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to introduce the report of the Fifth Committee.

Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour today to present to the General Assembly the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 149, "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force" in Yugoslavia. The Fifth Committee's report on this item is contained in document A/46/894.

As stated in paragraph 2 of the report, the Committee considered agenda item 149 at its 61st and 62nd meetings. At the 62nd meeting, the Chairman put before the Fifth Committee the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of the report before the Assembly. The draft resolution follows a format similar to that of previous resolutions on the financing of United Nations peace-keeping operations. I shall therefore highlight only certain aspects that are germane to this specific situation.

In operative paragraph 1 the General Assembly would concur with the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/46/893).

In operative paragraph 3 the General Assembly would decide at this stage to appropriate, in accordance with the report of the ACABQ, an amount of $250 million net, inclusive of the amount of $10 million previously authorized with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/187 of 20 December 1991.

Furthermore, the General Assembly would decide as an ad hoc arrangement to apportion those amounts among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups established by the General Assembly, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1992, 1993 and 1994, which would include new Member States as well.

(Mr. Barimani, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

The draft resolution also invites voluntary contributions to the United Nations Protection Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General.

The final operative paragraph requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly by the start of its forty-seventh session a report on such additional requirements as may be necessary and including detailed and up-to-date information on the performance of the United Nations Protection Force.

The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. As is stated in paragraph 6 of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

(The President)

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (A/46/894).

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 46/233).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia has asked to make a statement following the adoption of the resolution, and I now call upon him.

Mr. SILOVIC (Yugoslavia): Some time ago Yugoslavia approached the international community, the United Nations and the Security Council, in the hope that they would help prevent further bloodshed and destruction in our country. The response was timely and welcome. The Security Council decided to dispatch the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and the Commander of the operation, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, and the highest-ranking military, civilian and police personnel, as well as the advance teams, are already in Yugoslavia.

The establishment of a peace-keeping operation is of extreme importance to all in Yugoslavia. Its mandate is to ensure the conditions of peace and security as a prerequisite for negotiations towards the overall settlement of the crisis in Yugoslavia. The United Nations presence does not prejudge the outcome of the political process. On the contrary, its purpose is to stop the fighting and to create conditions in which political negotiations can take place.

Today's decision of the General Assembly to appropriate $250 million net facilitates the speedy and full deployment of the Force. It also demonstrates the unanimous position of the Member States that any delay might jeopardize the fragile cease-fire.

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

We highly appreciate the Secretary-General's efforts and his recommendations to the General Assembly. We would have preferred to see his proposal that half of the current budget estimates be appropriated at this time accepted, since that would have provided a more secure financial basis for the operation. However, it is important that the Secretary-General has been given an opportunity to revert to the General Assembly at any time in the event that additional funds should be required.

Allow me to express our gratification to the Chairman and the other members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for their report and thorough consideration of this matter, as well as to the Chairman and the other members of the Fifth Committee for promptly and constructively addressing this question.

This is going to be one of the largest United Nations peace-keeping operations, and it will involve a heavy financial burden on Member States. We in Yugoslavia are not only aware of this but also firmly committed to doing our utmost with a view to offsetting the costs. To that end the Yugoslav Government has already advanced concrete proposals, some of which are mentioned in the annex to the Secretary-General's report. They are currently being considered, and the members of UNPROFOR already in Yugoslavia are exploring with all the Yugoslav parties how to make best use of the proposals and search for other locally available facilities and other ways to diminish the operation's budget.

As the Secretary-General said in his report, the United Nations Protection Force is supposed to stay in Yugoslavia until an overall political solution to the crisis is found, it being understood that rapid progress will need to be made in the conference on Yugoslavia. This places a special

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

responsibility on all parties in Yugoslavia - of which members are all well aware - to achieve, as a matter of priority, a comprehensive and lasting solution on the basis of the principles put forward by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the European Community, under whose auspices the conference is being held, and accepted by the Yugoslav parties, thus freeing the potential of the United Nations needed elsewhere.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 149.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.